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**Bristol History Commission**

**Funding available for creative workshops exploring personal history and heritage**

**What is needed?**

We are aiming to create a community of 10 to 15 Bridging Histories Ambassadors from Bristol and surrounding areas. Bridging Histories Ambassadors will be responsible for designing and carrying out creative workshops getting people involved in at least 1 of the 6 Bridging Histories activities:

* Activity #1 ‘I am from’ poems – write a poem or make artwork on the theme ‘I am from’
* Activity #2 Recipes and stories – share a recipe and story to go with it
* Activity #3 Street histories – find out about the history of your street
* Activity #4 Family histories – find out about your family history
* Activity #5 Be a monument detective or make a memorial of your own
* Activity #6 Be a changemaker – do something to make a positive difference in yourself or the world around you

As an ambassador, you will take responsibility for setting up and running a workshop or public event based on at least 1 of these 6 activities. The workshops or events should give your attendees a chance to get creative, meet other people, share with others, and make content that can be added to the ‘What you have shared’ gallery on our website. For instance, you might get young people interviewing grandparents about family history. Or you might get people together for a potluck sharing recipes handed down by their families, and make oral history recordings of people talking about what the recipes mean to them. There are countless possibilities and we are excited to hear what you come up with.

Between 10 and 15 grants of up to £500 will made available to suitable candidates for the Bridging Histories Ambassadors programme. Ambassadors will have the option to meet up periodically on Zoom to exchange ideas and experiences. In late summer or autumn of 2022, we will get everybody together to share what they have made so far.

Whatever you do, we’ll ask you to keep track of how you are designing and running your workshops, and share what you learn along the way. At the end, we’ll create workshop templates based on what you have done, to make it easy for other people to run their own workshops.

**What is Bridging Histories?**

Bridging Histories is a free learning project for people of all ages and from all walks of life. Our aim is to help people connect with each other, learn about the past and create positive change for the future. Through these activities, people will:

* Learn about who we were in the past and who we are today
* Develop skills and confidence
* Be more connected
* Inspire each other to create positive change

‘Bridging Histories’ was launched as part of the ‘We Are Bristol History Commission’ that was set up by the Mayor of Bristol after the fall of the Edward Colston statue, to help Bristol 'understand where we came from, so we can better decide where we want to go'. It is for communities anywhere to join in with. It is being directed in Bristol by Dr Joanna Burch-Brown (Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at University of Bristol). It is also being run in London, by the London Mayor’s Culture Team. We hope it will grow organically in new places, too.

We want to hear from every part of the community. Whatever your story is, it matters.

**What kinds of projects can be funded?**

You might want to run a creative workshop, a recipe exchange, a street history event or come up with your own idea for how to get people involved in Bridging Histories activities. Think imaginatively! We’d like you to be creative and run with your own ideas based on any of the Bridging Histories activities.

This particular round of funding is specifically for projects in Bristol and surrounding regions.

**What do I need to deliver?**

* Workshops should engage with at least one of the Bridging Histories activities.
* Workshops should involve a good but manageable number of participants. For instance, 12 to 15 participants is often a good number to work with, but you could work with more people or fewer.
* Workshops should result in content to be submitted to activities@bridginghistories.com to be turned into entries in our ‘[What you have shared’](http://www.bridginghistories.com/what-you-have-shared) gallery. This content can be in a variety of media (text, images, sound, video etc).
* Outputs should be family-friendly, suitable for an audience of all ages.
* We’ll work with you to create a ‘how to’ template based on your workshop, so that people can replicate what you’ve done in the future in their own communities.
* We’d like you to join in our summer conference to share what you’ve made.

**Who should apply?**

We’d like to hear from anybody who shows initiative and has a good idea. If you’re proposing something like a workshop, you’ll need to show that you have the skills and connections to deliver your idea. For instance, you might be an organisation or an independent artist, community worker or educator matching **at least one** of the following criteria:

* Experience in running or helping deliver creative workshops or events
* Experience in running or helping deliver heritage projects
* Experience with community leadership and engagement
* An active role in a community group, school, organisation, families programme or other group in Bristol or the South West.
* Alternatively, you can show that you haven’t yet done these things but have good potential for leadership and want to develop your skills.

**How will you decide which projects to fund?**

Proposals will be scored on the following evaluation criteria:

Essential:

* Imaginative engagement with at least one Bridging Histories activity, OR promising idea for how to promote Bridging Histories
* Realistic and achievable.
* Clear and specific plans, such a clear plan for what workshop participants will make, and what outputs they will add to our online gallery.
* Awareness and openness to diverse perspectives.
* Mindfulness of accessibility.
* Good potential to inspire others.

Desirable:

* Reaches a group that Bridging Histories hasn’t yet reached
* Collaborating with schools, libraries, community centres, youth groups, religious groups or similar
* Timing – sooner is better

**What happens after I apply?**

* Submit your application.
* Hear back within 1 month about our funding decision.
* Plan, publicize and deliver your activity.
* Share content with [activities@bridginghistories.com](mailto:activities@bridginghistories.com) to be uploaded to website.
* Follow up with media where appropriate.
* Reflect on learning / future plans.
* Attend the summer conference (which may take place before, during or after your workshops, depending on when you get going).
* Work with the project team to create templates based on your workshop, to share on our website.

**How do I apply?**

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, while funds last.

Please send your proposals to Joanna Burch-Brown at:

[activities@bridginghistory.com](mailto:activities@bridginghistory.com)

Please include the following information (word counts are flexible). If you would prefer to apply by making a short audio recording or video, that is fine too. Just let us know that you’re planning to do this, by emailing [activities@bridginghistories.com](mailto:activities@bridginghistories.com)

1. Name
2. Date
3. Contact details (main contact name, phone, email)
4. Tell us a little bit about yourself (and any co-leaders or organisations you are working with) (100 - 200 words)
5. What is your idea? (100 - 300 words)
6. Why is this important to you and the community? (100 - 300 words)
7. How will you attract participants? (100 - 200 words)
8. How will people benefit from joining in? (For instance, making friends, learning new things, feeling listened to, gaining confidence etc). (100 - 300 words)
9. What is the timeline? When will it start and end, and what are the key milestones along the way? Although the project doesn’t have to be finished by the end of 2022, we would be looking for some outputs to be completed by then, and some activity to be underway by summer 2022.
10. What experience do you have delivering this kind of thing? Is this new to you or are you building on previous work? (100 - 300 words)
11. What will the measurable outputs be? (100 - 300 words). What do you want to achieve? For example, more of the community are now activity involved in local heritage activities.
12. How much will it cost? Please give an item-by-item estimate of budget. (We can offer up to £500 per Bridging Histories Ambassador project). This might include publicity costs; material costs or room hire and refreshments.
13. How will you follow up afterwards to learn from and build on the experience? (100 - 300 words).

We may contact you to chat with you more about your idea to help us make a decision on your application.